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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

FEBRUARY 9th, 1978 • Volume 13, Number 6 • *13th Year of Publishing* • FIFTY CENTS

Fish Talk: SQUID

★

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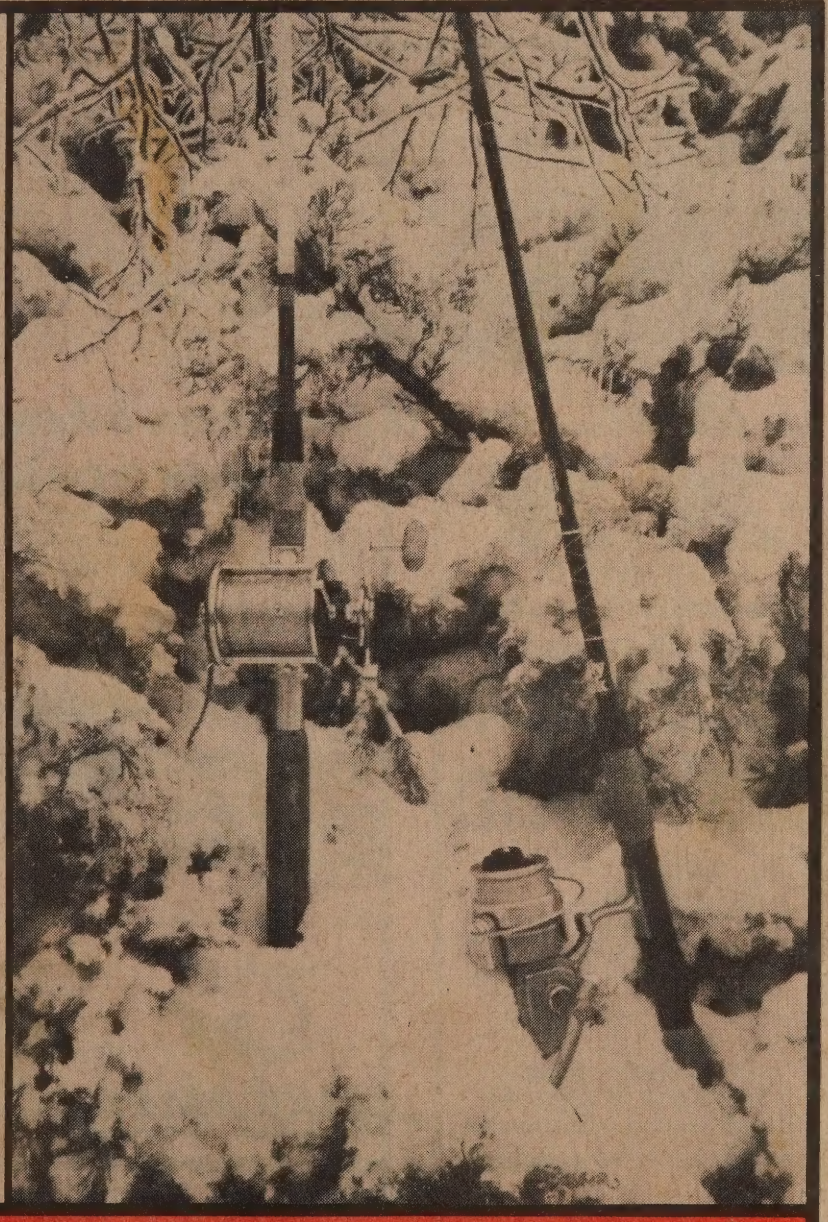

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 6 FEBRUARY 9, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SHORE RANGES

About the Cover—

Don't let the recent snow and ice storms depress you too much. In spite of this week's blizzard, the sun moves further north in the sky with each day, and soon the flounders will be bending the rods in the cover photo.

Richard Reina PUBLISHER

Dr. Wm. A. Muller MANAGING EDITOR

Scott Simons ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Al Ristori CONSERVATION EDITOR

Ken Walsh NATIONAL ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

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Tim Coleman NEW ENGLAND EDITOR

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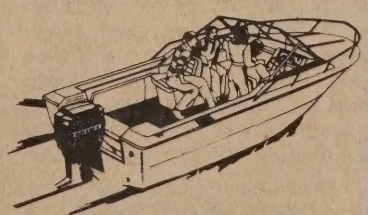

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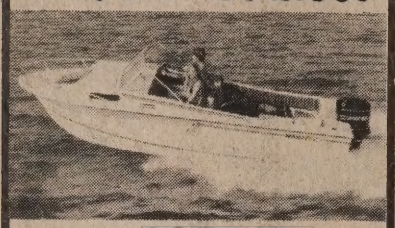

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EDITOR'S HEAD

★ ★

What's a grapevine?

Many fishermen call or write asking how they can get important and up-to-date information about where and when fish are biting. We help them, of course. In fact, we like to think that we are the information grapevine for our readers. We have a large number of professionals that we call each week and these folks give us the information that allows us to put together our fishing reports. Furthermore, when a solid run of fish develops we herald the action across our front page.

But let's face it—there are many mini-runs of fish. That is, the fish arrive out of nowhere, stick around for a few tides, and then they are gone just as fast as they appeared. There exists no written form of communication that can get that kind of information out to fishermen in time for them to take advantage of the good fishing.

That's why lots of fishermen join clubs. A club not only affords social opportunitites, but also the chance to become part of a grapevine. Many clubs have a system by which the telephone is used to relay "hot" information from member to member.

But lots of folks do not like the idea of joining a club because they either object to some of the personal nonsense that inevitably evolves whenever a group of fishermen bond together, or they know that responsibilities will prohibit them from volunteering for club activities and they feel that if they cannot contribute, they should not join. That is a noble attitude, but it is an attitude that may leave the angler high and dry and in need of good information.

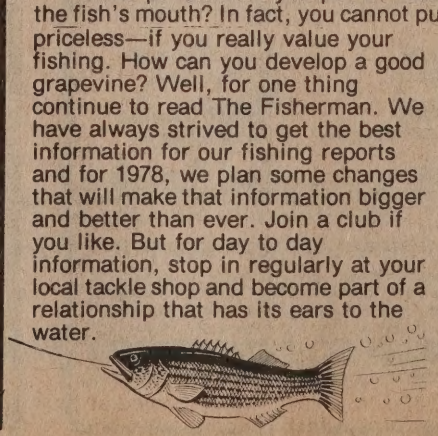
Cheer up, for the answer to your dilemma is probably as close as your closest tackle shop. The small local bait and tackle shops stay in business because they provide unique and personal services. They fix that reel that nobody else will even look at because the company has been out of business for ten years; they'll stock a particular plug that no one else will handle; they carry a specific bait that maybe you and one or two others will ever buy, and they will answer your questions free of charge.

Why? Why are they willing to lose money at times in order to provide you with the goods and services that you need to succeed in your fishing efforts. The answer is easy and it is not a guarded secret. They want you to be a steady customer. They want you to have confidence in them as professionals so that you'll make their store the first and not the last stop!

Part of this service is to pass along fishing news to regular customers. How do they get the information? Many of these folks are truly expert fishermen and you'll find them on or in the water whenever they aren't working. Some belong to fishing clubs and are avid and valuable members. Others rely to some extent upon what might be called professional fishermen for the news—both good and bad. There thus exists a series of relationships wherein people share information out of expediency, good business, and friendship. These relationships are often quite complex and involve many intermediates. The net result, however, is that when you walk into the shop you get much needed information along with a hearty hello and a warm smile.

Some fishermen balk at the idea of steady patronage of a given tackle shop. They point out that prices are generally a little higher in local small stores. But should money really be a major factor? When you buy a food specialty at the local delicatessen you pay a little more, too. Still you spend your money there because you know that the folks who operate that store can give you something that you may not be able to buy elsewhere.

What price would you put on receiving the best information fresh from the fish's mouth? In fact, you cannot put a price tag on such information! It is priceless—if you really value your fishing. How can you develop a good grapevine? Well, for one thing continue to read The Fisherman. We have always strived to get the best information for our fishing reports and for 1978, we plan some changes that will make that information bigger and better than ever. Join a club if you like. But for day to day information, stop in regularly at your local tackle shop and become part of a relationship that has its ears to the water.



CLUB NEWS

SOUND SURF FISHING CLUB ANNUAL AWARDS

Surf Bass:
1st—Butch Sprague—20-0
2nd—Joe Russo—16-6
3rd—Frank Meyer—11-2

Surf Blue
1st—Ralph Ciccio—18-3
2nd—Joe Russo—16-8
3rd—Sal Inzone—16-0

Surf Weak:
1st—Howard Klerk—12-8
2nd—Frank Meyer—11-0
3rd—Sal Inzone—7-0

Boat Bass:
1st—Lewis Sclafane—34-11
2nd—Artie Sprague—15-2
3rd—Sal Inzone—14-9

Boat Blue:
1st—Warren Sprague—23-8
2nd—John Kranenberg—21-0
3rd—Tom Furey—11-5

1st Place Team:
Lewis Sclafane, Nick Pecoraro, Ralph Ciccio, Ken Sprague and Ray Hedges.

Also, the Club is currently seeking new members who fish either the surf or boat. For more information, call: Frank Meyer at 588-2672.

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB

The Gateway Striper Club of Fort Tilden has just completed their first year and would like to announce the following.

At our January meeting, we awarded trophies to Ed Wolfe for the largest bluefish, the Most Club Points and the Most Schafer Points. A trophy for the Largest Bass went to Bob Lekowski. And last, but not least, our Gateway Fellowship Award went to John Messina. Also at this meeting, we elected the following officers to their second term. Ed Wolfe, President; Dave Williams, Vice President; Stan Hyman, Treasurer, and John Ohle, Secretary.

Looking forward to our next meeting February 9, we have invited the "Surfcaster" to speak and to demonstrate his line of products. All are welcome and invited to attend.

I would also like to point out that our membership roles are open and that all who are interested are invited to join. We are a Surf Fishing club and the only requirement that we ask of prospective members is that they pledge to attend and participate at all meetings and club contests. Meetings are held once a month on the second Thursday. They are held at the Fort Tilden section of Gateway Park, building 125 at 8 PM. Contests are held about once or twice a month during the spring, summer and fall. Cash prizes are awarded for first and second place and trophies are awarded at the year's end.

In the year ahead we plan casting contests, fishing contests with other clubs, as well as trips to Quincy and Montauk Point.

BELLMORE ROD & GUN CLUB NEW OFFICERS

The new officers installed for the current year are: Benny Genna, President; Al Browneski, Vice President; Tony Gubelman, Treasurer; Roger Bauer, Recording Secretary, and Paul Mager, Corresponding Secretary.

John Greene was honored for his excellent service and the traditional awards for fishing, hunting and pistol shooting were presented.

The Bellmore Rod and Gun Club will hold its monthly meeting at the Bellmore American Legion, Royal St., Bellmore, N.Y., Thursday evening, February 9 at 8:30 p.m.

Guests are welcome.

KINGS BAY STRIPER CLUB NEW OFFICERS FOR 1978

The Kings Bay Striper Club is pleased to announce its newly-elected officers for 1978, as follows:

President: Joe Lee; **Vice President:** Dr. Gary Sherman and **Sec'y-Treasurer:** Will Daskal.

The Club may be contacted by writing to Will Daskal at 3000 Avenue X, Brooklyn, NY. 11235.

KINGS BAY STRIPER CLUB FISHING RESULTS

Largest Bass Boat:
Joey Lee, Jr., Oct., 44, 8 oz.

Largest Weakfish Boat:
Joe Lee, Sr., July, 12 8 oz.
Richy Coyle, Oct., 12 2 oz.
Gary Sherman, May, 11 4 oz.

Largest Blue Boat:
Howie James, Oct. 21 4 oz.
John Gale, Oct., 20.

Largest Bass—Surf:
John Foti, Sept., 32.

Largest Blue—Surf:
Tony Cortese, Sept., 15 5 oz.

Largest Weak—Surf:
Barry Trinka, May, 10 6 oz.

Point-Fish Leaders:
Jack Sherwood, Jr.—1,011.
Donald Ambrico—1,001
John Foti—459.
Howie James—370.
Barry Trinka—410.

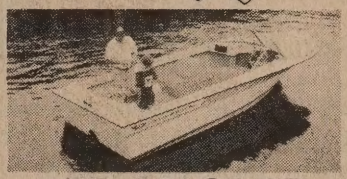
SALTY FLYRODDERS ANNOUNCE OFFICERS

Announcement of 1978 "Salty" Flyrodders of New York Club officers: President: Don Avondolio; Vice President: Dom DeSalvo; Treasurer: Harry Lasker; Recording Secretary: Hammond Fox; Directors: Bill Bradshaw and Ted Rosenthaler.

Also note that last month's meeting was not held due to inclement weather, and was postponed to Monday, February 6. At this time, Dennis O'Brien will lecture and demonstrate fly rod building. The meeting will be held in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church at 31-20 21st Ave., Astoria, N.Y., at 8 PM. Coffee and cake will be served at the meeting, which is open to the public.

"On Reynold's Channel, Lawrence—
At the foot of the Atlantic Beach Bridge"

GRADY-WHITE BOATS



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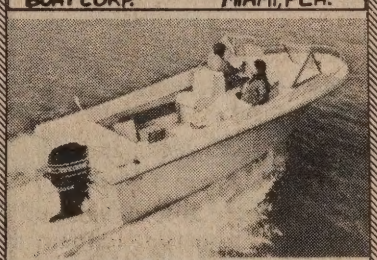

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Bow Riders for the fisherman or the family. The 21' is shown above. Not shown is the 19' Bow Rider. All models avail. in outboard or stern-drive. All part of *Angler's* 20 model line. Center Console Fishermen, Bow Riders or Hard Deck Runabouts.

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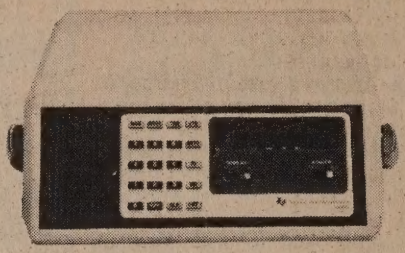

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BOATING

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING COURSES

A class in boating safety will be held at the Hicksville Senior High School, Division Ave., sponsored by Flotilla 22-09 of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A New York State Young Boatmen's Course will run concurrently.

Registration and first class will be on Thursday, February 9, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. Classes will be held on the following eight (8) Thursdays.

The course is free to the public, with just a nominal charge for materials. Families are encouraged to take the course together. Enough basic information is covered to enable the novice to select the best boat for his needs and to operate it safely.

Youngsters from ages 10 to 16 will receive a N.Y. State Boat Operators Certificate on successful completion of their course.

For further information, contact E. Drayton, at 516-681-3732.

PLUM BEACH POWER SQUADRON COURSE

The Plum Beach Power Squadron is giving its free basic boating course. An invitation is extended to boatmen, their wives, and young persons over 12 years of age. It is not required that students own a boat. The course covers small boat handling, safety, navigation, etc.

Registration is at Gateway National Recretion area of Floyd Bennett Field, February 8, 1978, 8 PM, Building 272. For further information call 645-0523.

This is given as a public service by Plum Beach Power Squadron without charge. We would appreciate it if you were to apprize your readers of this course.

USCG AUXILIARY COURSE

Flotilla 12-1 is offering a Young Boatman's Safety Course. This course is mandatory for any youth between the ages of 10-16 who wishes to operate a motorboat alone. The course is completely free and will meet at the Bayside High School, 32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street, Bayside, Queens, 1st floor cafeteria on Thursdays, starting February 9, 1978, from 8 PM to 10 PM.

For more information, contact Ron Braut, Public Relations Officer, 212-726-1764.

USCG AUXILIARY BOATING COURSE

In keeping with Coast Guard policy to promote boating safety, we, the Auxiliary, as a public service give educational courses in maintenance, navigation, and safe operation of boats on our waters.

A 13-lesson course on Boating Safety and Seamanship given by

Flotilla 12-4 will begin on Wednesday, February 8, 1978 at 8 PM at the Flushing High School on Northern Boulevard at Union Street, Flushing.

The course is open to the general public—men and women, as well as boys and girls sixteen years of age and over. There is no charge for the course or registration. There will be a small charge for material and the use of the school facilities.

Persons desiring additional information may feel free to call Flotilla Public Education Officer, Ms. Dolores Keane, 37-02 89th St., Jackson Heights, IL 7-2622, after 6 PM, or Kal Sekely F.C. 12-4, telephone: HA 9-3553, after 6 PM.

OLD FIELD POINT POWER SQUADRON YOUNG BOATMEN'S COURSE

Anyone under fifteen years of age must possess a Certificate issued by the State of New York to legally operate a motor boat in New York State.

The four week, eight hour course will start on March 17 at the Port Jefferson Village Hall at 9 AM to 11 AM.

Those successfully passing the course will be issued a Certificate stating that they have met the necessary requirements to legally operate a boat under the law.

A motor boat is any boat powered by machinery of any type.

COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BOATING COURSES

Division XXII, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, has announced the following boating courses:

Flotilla 22-4, 13 lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship to be given at Wilson Technical H.S., Laurel Hill Rd., Northport, starting Wednesday, February 25. Contact Roger Hill, 757-0587.

Flotilla 22-6, 12 lesson course in Boating Skills and Seamanship at Middleville J.H.S., Northport, starting Wednesday, March 1.

All classes start at 8 PM.

Pass It On...

MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science announces a Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium will be held on March 29 and 30, 1978 at the OMNI International Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia.

The Fisherman has a limited number of application forms if anyone is seriously interested in attending.

Call us at (516) 725-4200 and we will send the form to you.

CONGRESSMAN LENT URGES ACTION ON OIL POLLUTION

In a letter dated January 12, Congressman Norman F. Lent urged Senator Muskie, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution, to take action on the Comprehensive Oil Pollution Liability and Compensation Act.

Lent's letter to Senator Muskie said that the four oil spills recently in Long Island Sound, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay and Port Everglades, Florida involved more than one million barrels of oil and gasoline. "Each accident threatened incalculable damage to fragile coastal wetlands, fishing grounds, beaches and wildlife nearby, and threatened serious economic harm to fishermen, boat owners, and owners and operators of shore installations nearby," Lent's letter said. The letter concluded, "Long Island residents, concerned over the increasing threat of damage to the hundreds of miles of beaches, fishing grounds, and fragile wetlands, as well as to boating and fishing equipment and shore installations, are looking to your Subcommittee to complete action on S2083 as soon as possible."

The Long Island Fisherman commends Congressman Lent for his concern and for taking a strong stand on oil pollution.

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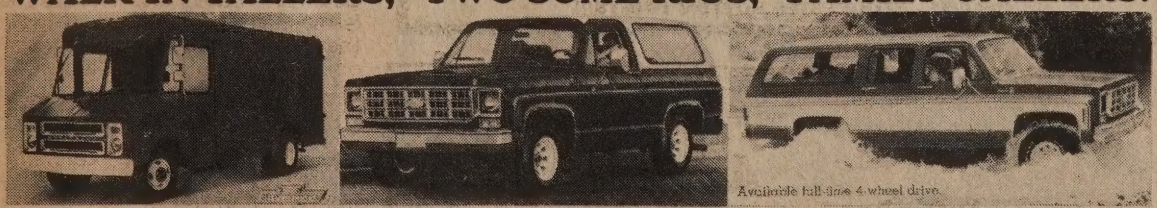

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CHUM LINES

EQUAL TIME FOR FLY FISHERMEN?

I have been a devout surf fisherman for many years and although I have never met you knowingly, I am sure our foot prints have crossed in the sand many times. I am, and have been, a very satisfied and appreciative reader of your fine publication. I have read with interest and admiration the wide diversity of angling types and techniques covered so competently and completely from issue to issue.

As you may have guessed, I have a point to make amongst all this well-deserved flattery. I count myself amongst the rapidly growing numbers of saltwater fly fishermen. This letter is being written with the hope that it may stir some interest in the subject so that you may feel warranted in giving this fine technique some coverage. As Vice President of the Long Island Fly Tyers, I have noticed a tremendous increase in members who are dedicated to the long rod in the salty brine. I come across an unbelievable number of surfcasters who have no idea what the heck is going on "with the guy waving that funny rod around." More importantly, I am sure there are many readers of your publication who would be totally absorbed in fly fishing if they had enough good and accurate information on how, where, when, and with what. Saltwater fly fishing is without a doubt the most demanding and rewarding technique.

Don't misunderstand me—only a fool is stubborn enough to stick with only one type or technique of angling all the time. I only hope that you and your publication sees fit to give saltwater fly fishing a try, if only to enlighten other anglers and maybe introduce a few more. **H. F. Guja.**

We're one step ahead of you. We have already scheduled saltwater fly fishing articles in the SurfSide column for the following issues: 9, 10, 20, 21, 23 & 24.

SURF FISHERMAN SEEKS INFO

I am a party boat fisherman, but this year I would like to do some surf fishing. My only problem is I don't know any good spots to surf fish on. I live in Brooklyn and would appreciate it if you can give me some information on some good public fishing areas in the Rockaways and the southern part of Nassau County.

I would appreciate it if you could help me out. **Paul Onorio, Bklyn, NY.**

We would suggest that you join a surf fishing club. You don't have to be a pro, just interested in the sport. In recent issues, High Hill Striper Club, Gateway Anglers, and Sound Surf Club have or will announce openings. Check it out!

EQUAL TIME FOR BERGALLS?

I am a subscriber to your publication. In your column "Fish Talk" you have covered everything from sharks to spearing, but you have never had one of these articles on bergalls (as far as I know). I know these fish are a favorite of mine and have come through for me on days when the flounders and blacks weren't biting. **P. Annetto, Bellerose, N.Y.**

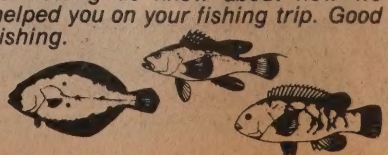
Why Not! Look for bergalls in "Fish Talk" column this spring. Thanks for your interest.

A SUCCESSFUL FISHING TRIP

I am writing you to say thank you for the story on whiting fishing by Matt Ahern in Issue #44 of November 17, 1977.

I went fishing on the "Dorothy B" out of Sheepshead Bay about two months ago for whiting and ling. The day before I went, I reread the story and I returned with 15 whiting and 10 ling. The whiting were 1½-2 lbs., and the ling were medium sized. I really thank you. **K. Ivany.**

That's what we're here for. Thanks for letting us know about how we helped you on your fishing trip. Good fishing.



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I'm interested in finding out how to apply for a permit to take giant tuna. Can you help? **A. Rohr, Bronx, N.Y.**

Apply by writing to Bill Gordon, National Marine Fisheries Service, Law Enforcement Division, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, Mass. 01930. They have been slow in responding, so apply early.

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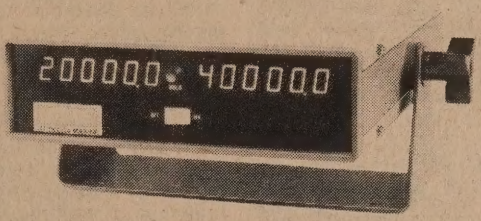

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Fishery Council Approves Mackerel and Squid Plans

At its January meeting in Claymont, Delaware, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council made several changes to the proposed fishery management plans for mackerel and squid. Based on testimony received at the public hearings and written comments, the Council changed the split of the 14,000 metric ton domestic allocation of mackerel from 7,000 metric tons to both recreational and commercial fisheries to 9,000 recreational and 5,000 commercial. While this will have little practical effect on the sport fishery this year (the Council has no intention of shutting down the sport fishery in any case), it does help prevent the creation of a new commercial fishery for mackerel at this period of scarcity and establishes an historical precedent for division of the fishery should conditions continue to deteriorate.

In the case of both recreational and commercial fisheries, these quotas represent a significant increase over catches of recent years. When mackerel were very abundant, the sport catch was almost four times greater. However, it's unlikely that such catches could be made at this time due to the very low population levels. The proposed ten inch size limit was deleted due to the difficulties which would be encountered in enforcing it. Further study will be given to that proposal during the year, and it may be considered for the 1979 plan. A proposal at the hearings that private boats in the mackerel fishery be licensed was rejected. This would result in a great deal of cost, paper work and aggravation. Party boats will be required to obtain a free permit and keep a log book, but the Council will fund a survey to determine sport fishing catches during the upcoming season.

Despite State Department pressures to change the Illex squid allocation for the foreign fleets, the Council held firm to the proposed 20,000 metric tons. The preliminary management plan had granted the foreign fleets 23,500 metric tons, but the Council staff changed the allocation based on the best scientific information available, as well as current estimates of what the American fleet might be able to harvest. The State Department and Japanese objected to our changing the allocations within the same year. The fishery management plan must still be approved by the Secretary of Commerce and we may be overruled. However, our duty is to write a plan based on the best information available (rather than to simply comply with what another agency has already done), which means that we'll stick with the present plan.

A proposed change in the squid fishing "window" meant to keep foreign trawlers out of areas where by-catch of fluke and other species would be a problem, was set aside for the time being. The problem here is that the concept of differing windows for various species was changed this year to one large window for all species. This will simplify enforcement for the Coast Guard, but also makes it impractical to try to change window areas in individual plans. We'll try to achieve this goal by changing the Foreign Fishery Regulations.

Though the changes made as a result of the hearings were not of a major nature, they do indicate the importance of making your opinion known. New England commercial interests were able to change the original Council recommendation of a 10,000/4,000 split of the recreational/commercial fishery for mackerel to 7,000 metric tons each. It was the hearings and letters that helped bring this allocation back to something more closely resembling the historic division of the fisheries. Turnouts varied greatly—ranging from only one at Gloucester and two at Riverhead, to twenty-three at Manteo, N.C., thirty-one at Point Judith, R.I., and fifty-two at Red Bank, N.J. Very helpful were letters received from the National Coalition for Marine Conservation and the Interstate Party Boat Owners Association (New England).

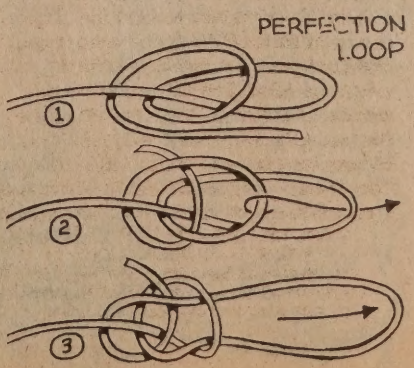
Advisory Sub-Panels to meet For First Time In Baltimore

With a charter finally in hand, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold its first meeting of the Advisory Council on February 7 at the Hunt Valley Inn outside of Baltimore. Sub-panels (drawn from the Advisory Panel master list) concerned with mackerel, squid and butterfish; sharks, and offshore gear conflicts will meet at this time. During the morning they will be briefed on the 200 Mile Limit law, and what is expected of the advisors. Then the various panels will go over the plans involving their areas of concern. In each case, a Council member closely involved in the plan will join the advisors to provide continuity between panel and Council. The full Council will be meeting the next two days at the same location and will take up the recommendations submitted.

L.I.F. Editor, "Doc" Muller has been appointed Chairman of the squid and butterfish sub-panel. Other well-known names involved in these particular panels include: Jerry Kenney (Daily News); Nick Karas (Newsday); Capt. Fred Ardolino (Sheepshead Bay); Bob Duffy (Newark Star-Ledger); Lou Rodia (Cape May); Capt. Howard Bogan (Brielle, chairman of mackerel panel); Jack Casey (shark expert—chairman of that panel); Capt. Joe Moakley (Montauk), etc. The purpose of the advisory panels is to provide public input from knowledgeable individuals while the plans are being formulated. Panel members aren't paid, but do receive expenses. As the Council gets other plans under way (such as porgies, fluke, sea bass, tilefish), other panel members will be assigned to sub-panels.

Sport Fishing Institute Pushes Hutton for Important NOAA Position

In view of the fact that the newly appointed Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at NOAA (Terry Leitzell) has an administrative background, the Sport Fishing Institute feels that it's essential to have a fisheries scientist in the deputy position, in order that recreational interests may receive proper attention. SFI Executive Vice President Dick Stroud highly recommends Dr. Robert F. Hutton for that slot. Hutton is presently State Coordinator for Marine Resources in NOAA and was, for six years, Executive Secretary of the American Fisheries Society—the international professional society for fisheries scientists. Anglers are urged to write to Hon. Richard Frank, Administrator. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Simply endorse the nomination of Dr. Hutton as Deputy-Assistant Administrator (Fisheries) NOAA. He's already been endorsed by such organizations as National Coalition for Marine Conservation, SFI, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources.



FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

SQUID

CEPHALOPODS! Now there's a mouthful, but that is exactly what squid are. Squid belong to the animal kingdom and scientists place them in a large group (phyla) called the **Mollusca**. The mollusks can be further subdivided in sub-groups called classes. The class Pelecypoda are the bivalves. "Bi" means two and "valves" refers to shells, so the bivalves are the clams, oysters, mussels, etc. Another class—the bastropoda, are the snails. The Cephalopods (Cephalo means head, and pod means foot) are the squid and octopus.

HARD TO BELIEVE! At first glance, it is hard to believe that squid can be related to such benign creatures as clams. Actually, they have many features in common. One of the most important shared characteristics is the mantle. The mantle is a thin tissue layer that produces the shells and pearls in bivalves and is the covering of a cephalopod.

EVOLUTIONARY HISTORY. The ancestors of the squid look more like snails than squid. They had tentacles all right, but they lived inside a coiled shell and probably were not nearly as agile as today's version. Other ancentral types had straight shells, and these creatures probably spent a good deal of their time standing on their heads feeding on or in the bottom sediment.

LIKE A GUIDED MISSILE! Today's squid is a sleek version of past models. The shell is no longer on the outside of the animal. Through millions of years of evolution, the shell has been greatly reduced and is located on the inside. We call this structure "The Pen" because the ink sack is located within it.

MUCH MALIGNED! Cephalopod mollusks have been the object of much human fantasy and fear. The octopus has traditionally been considered to be a fearsome, avenging, deep sea animal that lurks in the shadows waiting to attack and devour divers, swimmers, and sailors. However, in point of fact, the octopus is a very shy fellow. They spend much of their time hiding from predators in caves, grottos, discarded cans and pottery, shipwrecks, and other shelters. In fact, in the Mediterranean Sea, fishermen set out long strings of small ceramic pots to catch octopus. The octopus takes up residence in a pot, and since they are highly territorial, they are reluctant to leave the vessel even when it is pulled to the surface by the fisherman. At the boat, the skilled fisherman bites the nerve mass behind the head to kill the octopus.

NOT VERY LARGE. Another myth about the octopus is that it is a huge beast capable of overturning a boat. However, most cephalopods are quite small. The average octopus can be cupped in your hands and a twenty-five pounder is a huge octopus.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF SUCCESS! Well, it is an important ingredient for success in marine habitats. Diversify and prosper—so there are many species of squid. They may be quite small such as the Pacific arrow squid or very large, such as the giant Architeuthis. More about giant squids later on.

PREDATORS! Even though fishermen usually think of squid as bait, they are actually voracious predators. Not only will they pursue bait fish, such as sand eels and spearing, but they will also attack each other. Young squid are fair game, as are any injured adults. They are savage animals. Inside the mass of tentacles is a beak-type mouth. It resembles the beak of a parrot—hard, curved, and with pointed ends. They will grab onto their prey tightly with the tentacles. Then they will tear pieces of flesh off with their beak-type mouths. Thus, a group of squid can quickly reduce a prey animal to a shredded mass in a few moments.

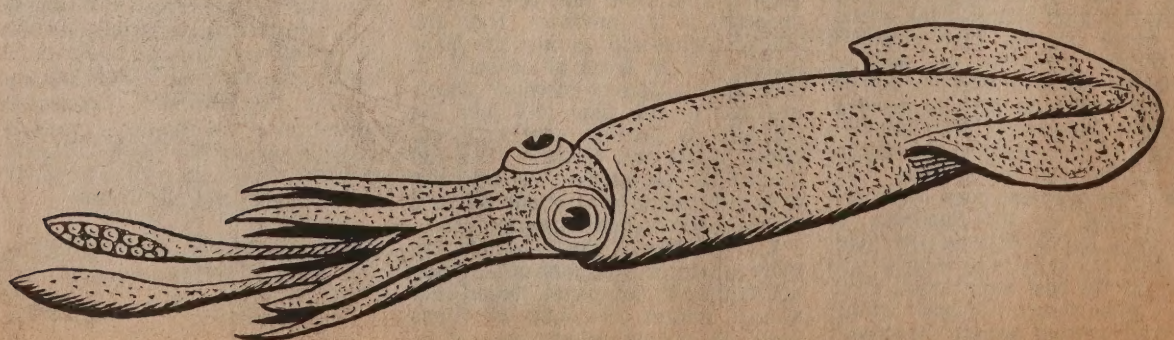
SCHOOLING BEHAVIOR. Unlike the solitary and retiring octopus, squid may travel and hunt in large schools. They swim backwards; that is, the head and tentacles trail behind the body. Although they do have two fins on the body, these function basically as stabilizers and maneuvering structures. The majority of the thrust for movement is generated by an excurrent siphon.

JET PROPELLED! Squid have two siphon tubes. Water is drawn in through one of these, it is circulated through the body cavity, bringing in oxygen and taking away waste products, and then pushed out through the other siphon by muscular contractions of the mantle. Thus, a repeating series of water pulses out of the siphon located near the head, pushing the back of the animal forward in short, crisp bursts.

EVER BUGGY WHIP A BIG BUCKTAIL IN A RIP? You were probably using a white, white-and-red, or white-and-yellow color combination. Although a bucktail is a great all-around lure, it is frequently jigged deep to imitate the squid which may be common in the area. Squid feed upon the small bait that may be tumbling in the eddies of the rip, and the bass, blues, fluke, and weakfish gather up to feed on the squid. Man then fishes for the game fish. A tidy relationship.

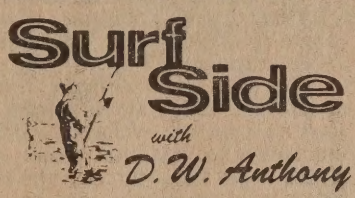
NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T! Squid and octopus are famous for their ability to disappear in a cloud of ink. The ink sack produces a purple, almost black, substance that resembles fountain pen ink. It is stored in the sack. When the cephalopod is threatened, it will mix the ink with mucus and expel it. The mucus helps to hold the pigment together and to momentarily create the illusion of a creature. The purpose of the ink cloud is to confuse a predator for perhaps a second or two. During the confusion, the cephalopod can put distance between itself and its pursuer, hopefully avoiding the predator completely.

Next Week: Giant Squid.



If you're a surf fisherman or wish to become one, you have probably been reading this column. The column has covered some very specific how-to and where-to information. One of the better how-to tips has encouraged the surf fisherman to keep a log. **The Fisherman** has printed several different approaches to keeping a fishing log, because there is no one way to do it. Each fisherman has his or her own needs and thus the important part of keeping a log is to **keep a log!**

I am not going to discuss my own version of a log because, to this point, enough basic info has already been supplied in past issues. Instead, it may be useful to talk about what to do with the log.



Preparing a Strategy

When each new fishing season rolls around, there are always surprises—no season is exactly like each and every other. However, there are patterns that repeat themselves.

The most stable months of the season pattern are May, June, September, October. First, these are months when the temperature of the water is changing. In the spring it is getting warmer, encouraging both the bait to move along the beach where it feeds on plankton blooms, and the game fish to migrate north and inshore. Thus, the stage is set: migrating game fish discover the bait and move in for the feast.

In the fall, a similar process occurs. Young of the year bait begins to move out of creeks, rivers, wetlands, and harbors when the water cools. The game fish, which have been feeding in cooler deeper waters all summer, again start to search the beach for abundant bait. The game fish must feed heavily now and build up fat reserves for the long, lean winter.

Okay, if everything is so stable, why do we need a strategy? Simple! Game fish cannot be counted upon to be in the same place everyday. Although it is important to have plenty of bait, it is not the only factor that affects the fishing. Winds from certain quarters may push bait off or closer to the beach, deflect rips, hold up or accelerate tides, and dirty the water.

So selecting a strategy requires that we ask certain questions and answer them accurately. The first question then is: what effect do winds of specific velocities and directions have on the quality of fishing in your favorite spot(s). Let us say that we have a strong northwest wind in early June. This condition would probably eliminate the possibility of good fishing in Long Island Sound because the water will be too dirty and too weedy. The east shores of most inlets will be unfishable owing to a combination of weed, dirty water, rough seas, and casting difficulties. The open south shore beaches should probably be eliminated too, since the water is likely to be too flat—hard to fool those fish even if they do pass by. Throwing chunks of mackerel or bunker is still a possibility, however.

Second question: Consult your log and see if any of your "fishin' holes" have produced in early June during a strong northwest wind.

Third question: What is the moon phase? A full moon may help on the north shore where the extra light at night may keep bait fish such as sand eels active. Although "fire" is usually not a spring problem, the moon will keep the green light off in the fall. A full moon on the north shore would probably make for great fishing, except those northwest winds will probably foul that up! The full moon is probably good in the back (State Channel), but you'll have to search for a place that's sheltered. If you can find such a spot, weakfish would be a good bet in June!

However, you want big bass; after all, it is the full moon in June, isn't it? Big bass are available in the State Channel. Look at your log. Have you caught any good-sized bass in the back during the full moon in June? If you have and it's sheltered from the wind, go there!

Tides are also important. There is a great difference in the tides between the south shore ocean, the bays, and Long Island Sound. Certain tides produce better than others in different places. Your log will tell you what they are. Timing may also be a factor. When the tide is high around midnight in Long Island Sound, it will be high a lot earlier on the south shore. If you don't have to work the next day you may not care, but if you have a big day planned, you might want to go to the location with the early tide.

It's a process of elimination. Up to this point, we have considered the following factors: time of year; availability of bait; winds; tides; moon phase, and the history of productivity of your favorite fishing spots. We have also considered personal factors such as your work schedule and preference for certain species. Your log has helped a lot by providing specific information from past seasons that are unmuddled by the imperfections of memory.

Now for the big decision. Where do I go fishing? Perhaps you'll decide to go up to the Sound and brave the unfavorable conditions. That would be a poor choice; there is simply no percentage in it. The whole point of keeping a log and using it to prepare strategy is to improve the percentages. In short, to maximize your chances of catching fish.

Perhaps you'll decide to fish the back. If you know a spot sheltered from the wind that has produced in the past, your choice may be a good one. On the other hand, is it your best bet—especially if you want a big bass?

The selection of a fishing location begins to narrow down. It becomes apparent that there will usually be several locations that hold promise for success. Where would you go? Maybe your choice would be a spot that we haven't mentioned.

One of the best bets under these conditions would be the west side of an inlet or a south shore jetty. The fisherman has a choice of technique—either artificials or bait—but the experienced will tell you that bait provides a better chance for a big fish at these locations. The wind at your back should help you to toss a hunk of bait or a large artificial a long way. The wind may also produce conditions that will keep the bait close, so don't overlook the short cast. Many big fish "sit" right against a jetty or an inlet bar. I've seen a fisherman take a cow on more than one occasion by casting parallel to the structure.

Since logs and strategies are designed to put you into fish more consistently, some anglers who ply their talents in the suds like to make a percentage chart for certain spots for specific times of the year. This is difficult to do when your log is only a year old, but it is still possible. Here's how.

Let's say that over the years you have fished a particular spot twenty-five times during the first week of June. Furthermore, you have established that incoming tide is the only productive period and that the five days following the full moon are also best, and you may even be thorough enough to have a record of water temperature during the twenty-five trips. Now out of the twenty-five trips, 20 fall into a

(Continued on page 14.)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

How-To Catch the Pool Winner

There are two types of fishermen who enter big-fish pools. One is the guy who participates for the sheer fun and personal zing it lends to the day's sport. The other, of course, is the fellow armed with well-planned designs on winning those extra bucks. It should come as no surprise when I say it is the second fellow who is more apt to succeed.

Luck? Sure, luck enters into the pool-winning game; but the veteran sinker bouncer puts little faith in luck. It's the guy who knows his fishing—and his fish—who has that much envied string of pool-winning feats to his credit. This skill isn't learned in one day, I assure you. But it can be learned.

And that's what this article is all about.

These repeating pool winners are in a class by themselves. Undoubtedly, they are master fishermen. I once knew a past master of this clan who won seven consecutive pools! I don't know what the record for this accomplishment might be, but this outstanding feat will stand in my book until someone comes along to better it. Incidentally, this pool-winning streak was finally broken by a novice who nailed a monster cod. A classic example of luck entering into the picture.

I was fortunate enough to know this extraordinary pool-winning fisherman quite well. He was a truly dedicated angler who lived and breathed fishing. I could just as easily give you his name, but it would serve no purpose, for few today would remember it. But I shall never forget him, for he taught me much—especially in my formative fishing years when it really counted.

In those years, I and my friend (who was already an old-timer) did most of our "deep sea" fishing on party boats leaving from Canarsie. It mattered not if we were aboard the Rose R II, the Pioneer II, the Tambo II, the Fidus, the old black-hulled White Eagle, or the still older Zoraya, the pool—as far as I was concerned—was a foregone conclusion. Of course, he didn't win pools everytime we went out—in my young impressionable eyes, it just seemed that way.

He was a cool customer and, as you'd expect, he had his own specialized fishing methods, methods which were honed to a fine edge.

For instance, he was never in any rush to get the bait overboard. He always waited until the boat was securely set on its anchor. This wasn't done to avoid tangles. My friend was a firm believer that all those lines plummeting to the bottom in one clump frightened the larger fish. Those fish, he said, had become large because they were just a mite more cautious than their brothers. Therefore, he claimed fishermen had to treat them with caution, too. He must have been right, because often his first fish of the day took the pool.

When codfishing, my friend rarely fished the stern—even if space was available. The bow was his spot. "You've got to get that bait out and away from the competition, kid," he used to tell me. "And with the whole, wide sea before you, what better place to do this than the bow?"

He proved this fishing method was correct, for most of his pool-winning cod were caught while bow fishing. Of course, there were days when weather conditions made it impossible to fish this area. It was then, and only then, when he'd hunt up a spot on the stern. Midship areas, he told me, were least productive, and he avoided them like the plague.

When wreck fishing for sea bass and porgies, my friend seldom availed himself of these willing biters. He specialized on the doormat wreck fluke he knew were waiting for a fisherman with his talents. His favorite spot for this fishing was also the bow. His favorite bait—and this will throw you—were quarter-pound slabs of fresh beef liver! This bloody mess, a thirty pound test leader, a wooden side-winder loaded with nine-thread Irish linen, and a 7/0 Carlisle hook were all he needed to bring many large doormats to gaff.

(I'll tell you the truth. I could never bring myself to use beef liver bait. I just knew I'd be unable to stand the jibes and laughter my friend endured. So I've learned to substitute six-inch strips of dogfish when available. I've also reduced my leaders to twenty pound test, and hook size to 5/0 to compensate for today's light twenty pound mono line.)

Fall blackfishing time was a happy time for my friend. I well remember the twenty-three pound chisel-tooth he caught on the offshore Sea Bright, New Jersey grounds. What a fish!

As with cod and fluke, this superb fisherman had special methods to catch outsize blackfish. Rail positions were unimportant. What he did was fish anywhere space was available, but the instant a disgruntled fisherman began to get hung-up and lose enough riggings to cause him to quit that spot in disgust, my friend quickly moved in.

The loss of riggings meant nothing. He welcomed the chance because he knew the largest blacks lived in the most obstructed areas. He baited only with the largest whole green crab he could find in the bait boxes. Claws and shells were left intact, the hook always inserted through one side and out the other. It cost him riggings, true, but he won enough blackfish pools to repay himself a hundredfold.

These and similar methods have always been used by hopeful, dedicated pool-winners everywhere. True, there were more fish available then and perhaps they were easier to come by. But this is all the more reason to become proficient in the art.

The prime requisite is to know your fish. Once this is done, the pools will come. If pool-winning instead of plain, everyday fish-catching is your plan, I leave you with this bit of advice. Study your fish, and study them well. Each specie has its peculiarity and it is up to you to find it and use it to your advantage.

Once you do that, the rest is easy.

Surf Side: STRATEGY

(Continued from page 13.)

preferred category and includes the combination of above circumstances. Further, you have caught fish on eight of the twenty trips. You can now calculate your probability of success.

$$\frac{8[\text{number of successful trips}] \times 100}{20} = \% \text{ Success}$$

$$\frac{800}{20} =$$

40 = % of Success.

If you do this calculation for all your favorite spots and times of year, you will have a chart of likely spots.

Time — June 1-10

Location	% Success
1	40
2	10
3	11.5
4	31

This chart can be updated each winter with information from the preceding season. But don't be so quick to choose location number one. The vast majority of the fish taken at location number one may be small, whereas the fish at number four are usually large. Here's where personal preference comes in. Still, the statistics help form the strategy and that's important.

FISHERMAN TIPS

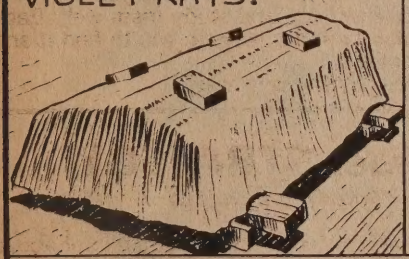
BY FRED GUARDINEER

LAFAYETTES OR SPOTS APPEARED IN LONG ISLAND'S GREAT SOUTH BAY LAST FALL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1932, REPORTED RETIRED LINDENHURST OPEN BOAT CAPT. BILL *"SEA HORSE"* HOFMANN. BILL TIED ON *SMALL TROUT HOOKS* TO CATCH THESE DELICIOUS LITTLE FISH.

TROUT HOOK

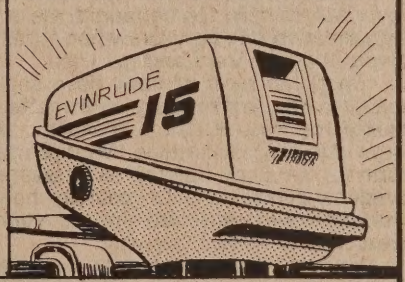
ARTIFICIAL FISHING FLIES & BUGS WILL BE SAFE FROM MOTHS IN AN UNHEATED GARAGE. IF STORED AT ROOM TEMPERATURE, MOTH CRYSTALS SHOULD BE SPRINKLED LIBERALLY IN THE CONTAINERS.

FIBERGLASS AND PLYWOOD BOATS STORED OUT-OF-DOORS, SURVIVE BEST WHEN COVERED WITH A PLASTIC TARP OF POLYETHYLENE OF 4 MIL. THICKNESS. BLACK ORANGE OR GREEN COLOR MINIMIZE PENETRATION OF ULTRA VIOLET RAYS.



TO FIGURE THE WEIGHT OF A FISH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE A SCALES BUT DO HAVE A CALCULATOR, YOU CAN GET A CLOSE APPROXIMATION BY SQUARING THE MAXIMUM GIRTH IN INCHES, MULTIPLY BY THE LENGTH AND THEN DIVIDE BY 800!

WHEN STORING YOUR OUTBOARD FOR WINTER RUN THE CARBURETOR FREE OF GAS, OIL PISTONS, CLEAR GAS LINE, FLUSH COOLING SYSTEM AND CLEAN THE SPARK PLUGS.



WHEN A PAIR OF WADERS WEAR OUT, CUT THE BOOTS OFF AND WEAR THE TOPS. IN A DUCK BLIND OR ABOARD A CONSOLE "WET" BOAT YOU WILL BE WARMER AND DRIER.

AFTER YOUR LURE HAS TRAVELLED 8 TO 10 FT. FROM WHERE YOU STARTED IT, HURRY IT IN. OVER 75% OF ALL STRIKES COME ON THE FIRST 10 TURNS OF THE REEL HANDLE.

ROD BUILDING

Part VI—"Fancy Pantsy"

by Dr. William A. Muller

One of the great joys of building your own rod is the expression of one's own taste in the finished product; i.e., we can add little personal touches that define our rod as an extension of our personalities. Every time we pick up the rod and see a particular thread winding embellishment, or our name written and dated above the foregrip, we are flooded with memories of when and how we made that rod and perhaps some of the significant fish we have caught with the rod.

We find that we can take pride in the rod, the memories, and in ourselves for a job well done. The fancy embellishments can be varied and as individual and creative as the fisherman cares to be.

Some fishermen prefer simple windings, but this simplicity is the mark of that angler's personality on the fisherman's rod. An angler may prefer a sculptured grip or the placement of a hook holder in front of the foregrip, or the placement of colorful markers on the rod shaft that indicate the legal lengths of species that are likely to be caught during the season. These size limitations may be self-imposed goals, club requirements, or a reminder of state laws.

However, the most frequently used vehicle for personalized rod embellishments is the winding that secures guides to the rod blank and which denote the grip areas—usually the foregrip.

The variety is endless because, in addition to the designs diagrammatically shown here, there are many variations of color and pattern. For example, one of the most popular windings is the diamond wrap. This wrap calls for a central dark color bordered by a light-colored thread and then, in turn, this is bordered by a dark color. If the sequence of light and dark is reversed, a new pattern results.

I guess what I'm saying is that we should all feel very free to play a little with our windings to create the personal touch. A good way to start might be to sketch out our proposed designs on paper with colored pencils. Thus, we have the opportunity to test our creativity before applying it to the finished rod. If this is our first attempt, it might be best to stick to tried and true patterns, following the directions handed down from past masters. There are many excellent books and articles that can be referred to for directions and advice.

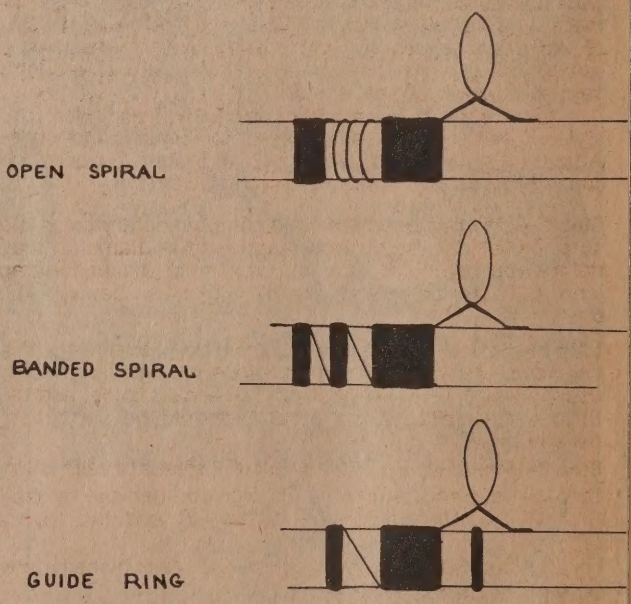
Books, such as **Fiberglas Rod Making** by Dale Clemens; **Tackle Craft** by C. Boyd Pfeiffer, and **Angler's Bible**, edited by Mark Sosin, provide color photographs as well as detailed directions which help the fisherman to make his or her pattern selection and to successfully complete the job. There have also been detailed how-to articles in **The Salt Water Sportsman** and **The Long Island Fisherman** over the years which have presented a variety of rod design philosophies and methods. When I first began to make rods, I received a great deal of advice from friends and although much of this advice was accurate and helpful, I found that some of their methods were not applicable to my tools, personality, and desires. However, after a review of some of the literature, I found that other experts recommended the use of some methods that friends guaranteed were no-nos. The confidence gained by positive reinforcement from professionals in the field certainly helped me rapidly expand my skills and my creative courage.

Enough said about the diversity of techniques and the need to read and experiment. I guess we are ready to start wrapping. I always get a few butterflies in my stomach before I start to wrap a rod. The flutters result from a combination of anticipation, excitement, and the anxiety over how well the finished product will look.

Most wraps can be achieved by the use of similar techniques, and we can describe these quickly. However, the instructions for the diamond wrap are significantly more complex and we will devote quite a bit of space to this at the end of the article.

Spirals, braids, and corkscrew patterns are simple one-way to two-way wraps. They show off best if they are underwrapped with a solid complementary color, but it is not necessary to do so. The most crucial aspect of successful wraps of the above designs is spacing and planning. The plan should include: color combinations, length of the design, distance between the pattern elements, and the possibility of an underwrap.

Most braid-type patterns begin with a short length of closely wound threads and the designs emanate from this beginning. Measure the total area to be wrapped.



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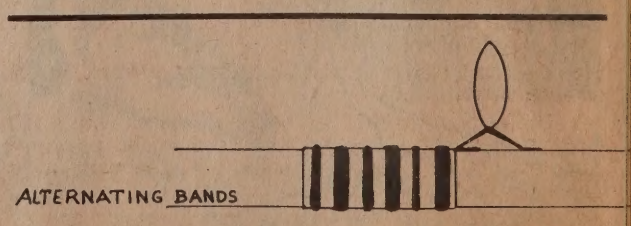


-2-

Determine the number of pattern elements. Divide the total length by the number of elements and the resulting number is the distance between the elements. It is not wise to mark an underwrap with pencil, because it will be difficult to remove. A paper template will serve our purposes better.

Begin the curve of the wrap around the rod so that the thread will intersect each pattern element mid-point. Thus, when a braid-type pattern is desired, the criss-cross points will line up perfectly.

There are two strategies that can be used to establish the return wrap: the spiral that winds down the shaft. Most experts would suggest that the individual threads, all cut to the same length, be used. Each one is either spiraled up or down the blank. A series of circular windings on both edges will hold the threads in place. They can then be trimmed for a professional finish. The wisdom of this strategy is self-evident, but nonetheless, when I made rods I did things the hard way. I used one continuous thread. I first spiraled it up the shaft. At the top I would change the winding angle so that it was perpendicular to the blank, make one turn, and reverse the spiral towards the butt. At the lower end, I would repeat the thread angle turning procedure so that the thread would again be spiralling up the shaft. The first go-round was easy, but subsequent additions presented a few problems. Often, the threads would not stay close to each other on the spiral and, at both ends, the rows of circular windings would tend to spread out.

There are two tricks that will help you if you choose the hard way. First, apply several layers of rod varnish or polyurethane to the underwrap. This will increase friction against the overwrap and the threads will tend to stay in place. Second, if some of the winds are unruly, use the tip of a clean fingernail to gently "put them in their place."

What do we do with the end of the thread when the braid-type winding is complete? It is hard to lock it in place with additional windings because the pattern is already there. I would cut the thread and glue it tightly to the edge of the previous winding with Duco cement. Allow the cement to dry for twenty-four hours before applying varnish or polyurethane finish.

The Diamond Wrap: Most fishermen consider this style of wrap to be the ultimate in beauty and style. Although it is a difficult wrap, it is not beyond the capabilities of even a first-time rod maker.

Step 1—Underwrap with a solid complementary color. Be sure to consider the desired length of the diamond wrap before you begin, so that you can make the underwrap long enough to extend about one inch beyond the overwrap.

Step 2—Select your colors for the diamond overwrap. You will need three colors. The first color should be a light one, usually white. The second should be a dark color, and the third—which will be the border—should be very dark, usually black.

Step 3—Pre-measure and cut four(4) threads of each color.

Step 4—1st Band: 4 threads of color number one (white). Two threads wound to the left and two to the right.

2nd Band: 2 threads of color #2, each placed to the left of #1.

3rd Band: 2 threads of color #2, each placed to the right of color #1.

4th Band: 2 threads of color #3, each placed to the left of color #2.

5th Band: 2 threads of color #3, each placed to the right of color #2.

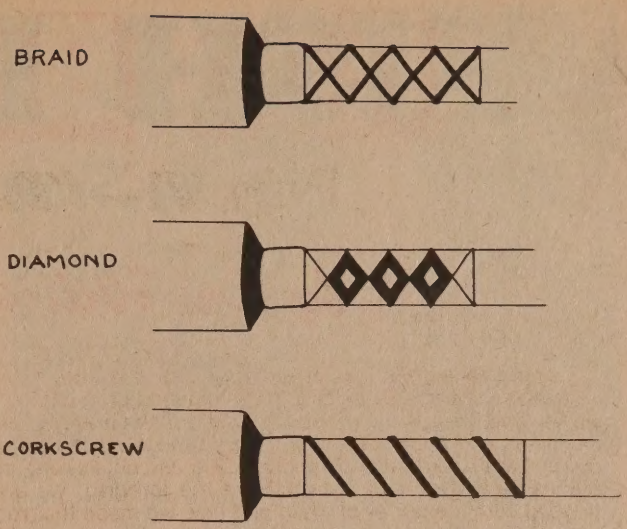
Step 5—The Border: One or two threads of black, wound on each side of the design.

The ends of threads can be held in place with a thin strip of masking tape and when the diamond pattern is complete, the ends can be secured with a few windings of black, or they can be cut evenly and glued.

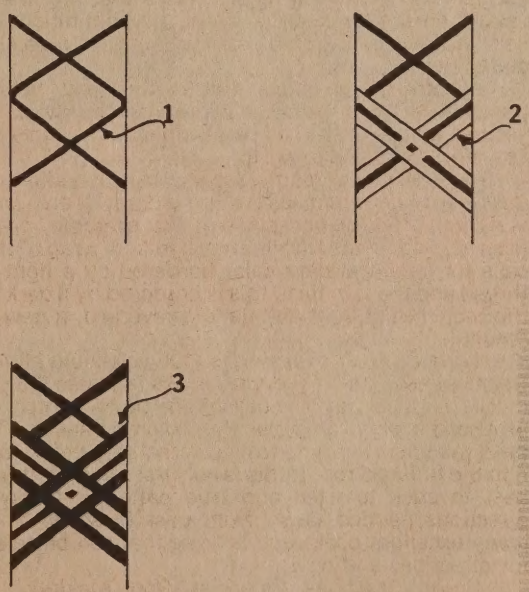
Your Signature:

Your signature is the final touch. It should be applied to a section of solid color above the foregrip. If the thread is a light color, use black paint for your name. If the thread is a dark color, use white paint. Be certain that you apply several coats of varnish or polyurethane to the windings before you sign your name, so that you have a smooth surface to paint on. Dilute a little oil base paint with turpentine. Use a very fine quality brush. Lightly write your name in pencil on the varnish. Dip your paint brush tip into the paint, remove excess, and stroke smoothly on the pencil outline. You will find that you will achieve better results when you paint without reservation or hesitation. Be aggressive. Deliberate strokes will look artificial. Let the signature flow. If it doesn't turn out well, remove it with turpentine and repeat.

Next Week: Sample Rods.



-3-GRIP WRAPS



-4- DETAILS OF DIAMOND WRAP

FISH BOXES

by Scott Simons

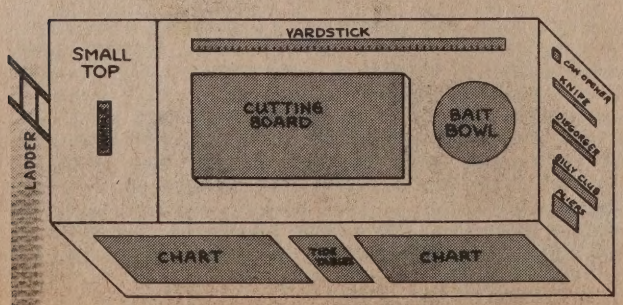
If you are a fisherman who loves to eat his catch, you have a big advantage over those non-fishermen who purchase their fish in the store. While it is possible for a fisherman to eat a fish only a few hours after it has been living and swimming in the water, the fish purchased in a fish store are often three or four days old—at best! Yet, at the same time, it is possible for these store-bought fish to be fresher than those only a few hours old. The key is in the care of the fish from the moment it is caught until it is cooked. And sad to say, many fishermen just don't know how to take care of the fish they catch. So to start off this article, first we are going to cover some of the many ways **not** to keep fish fresh.

The most common technique for destroying the flesh of a fish is to put it in a plastic fish bag. I blame this on the tackle shops and others that sell plastic "fish" bags to unknowing anglers. The fact of the matter is that the plastic bag acts as a greenhouse, slowly cooking the flesh of the fish. This is true even if the temperature is on the cool side and it's a sunny day. I cooked a mess of flounder a couple of years ago on a day that didn't see the temperature pass the forty degree mark. Another popular way of ruining fish is the old fish stringer—you can't cook what you don't have. While they will keep fresh by keeping them in the cool water they came from, the fish stringer is invariably forgotten when the boat is moved and the fish are torn off in the moving water. Fish stringers also become burdensome when more than ten or fifteen pounds are on them. So leave fish stringers to the crappie fishermen. Because that's what they are.

Another great way of destroying fish is to keep them in a garbage can—plastic, metal or otherwise. The reason is weight. While the fish on the top of the heap won't look too bad, those on the bottom will look like they have been run over by a truck. Suppose that you fill a large garbage can with a hundred pounds of fish. That means that those on the bottom are being crushed by the hundred pounds of fish above them.

If you do your fishing on a charter boat you don't have any problem, because the boat is usuallly equipped with a good fish box. But what if you do your fishing from an open or party boat? If you're lucky, the boat is equipped with a community fish box or cold room, but these boats are few and far between. You can use an insulated cooler like an Igloo, but they are expensive, burdensome to carry, and don't really hold all that many fish. Your best bet is the old standby—the old burlap bag. The trick is to keep the bag wet at all times. The evaporating water has a cooling effect that will keep the fish from spoiling.

If you own your own boat, there is only one way to go: a fish box. As I'm sure you've discovered, the "fish box" that came built in the boat is hardly enough to hold the bait and beer, much less a few bass or bluefish. This is probably due to the fact that most boat manufacturers are surfcasters, so they don't understand the boat fisherman's problem—what to do with all the fish we catch. So use the boat's fish boxes for beer, bait and soda—then either buy or make a fish box. Did I say buy? Forget it—I've seen boxes for sale ranging in price from $100 to $800, and all they are are coffins that take up a lot of room. Your best bet is to make a custom made box that will fit the design and dimensions of your boat and take care of your personal needs.



The diagrams show a basic fish box design. Dimensions aren't given because these will be dictated by the design and size of your boat. But there are a few things to be kept in mind when designing the box for your boat. First rule is "don't make it too big." Keep in mind that a cubic foot of salt water weighs in at about sixty-five pounds. Both ice and fish weigh almost the same, so if you build a fish box with a ten cubic foot capacity and fill it, you're talking about a box that weighs in excess of six hundred and fifty pounds. The second rule is to place the fish box in the cockpit of the boat as near its center of balance as possible. In other words, don't locate the box in the bow where it will make the boat nose heavy, or the stern, or on one side of the boat, or anywhere where the weight of the fish box and its contents will affect the performance or floatability of the boat.

The fish box shown is more than a fish box if you look closely—it's more like a fishing station. On the top of the box, screw down a wooden bowl or other container that can be used for holding bait. Preferably, it should be something that has a top that will keep the hot sun from spoiling the bait. You can also bolt or screw down a large cutting board to the top of the box to cut bait and fillet fish on. Another idea is to nail or glue down a yardstick that can be used for measuring "short" fish, trophy fish, or for tagging purposes. To the side of the box you can attach things that are used often while you are fishing and should always be close by. A good fillet knife can be attached by nailing the sheath directly to the box, and the same can be done to the sheath of your Sportmate pliers. A good hook disgorger can either be kept in an old knife sheath or hang from a hook. A billy club to be used for "persuading" fish to lie still during the unhooking process can also be hung from a hook. Holders for plugs and lures, leaders, hooks, etc., can be designed for the side of the box also, but make certain that they don't protrude from the side of the box where they can hook someone who is fishing. How about a small box or compartment for sinkers? Or a can opener? Or a tide table and charts of your area? Thermos bottle holder? If you find yourself looking for a place to mount an outboard motor, stop and regroup your thoughts—you're supposed to be building a fish box, not a boat! As you can see, there is an unlimited amount of uses that a fish box can have if you use a little imagination and don't get carried away.

The top of the fish box should be made so that it can be removed at the end of the day to take the fish out and so that it can easily be cleaned. So that you don't have to remove the top every time you catch a fish, make a second, smaller top that insets on the first and fashion a handle for it. Now all you have to do is open this smaller top to drop a fish in the box, and you don't have to remove the main cover. The small cover will prevent the cold from escaping and allows the main cover to be used for other purposes: bait holder, cutting board, etc.

Build the box with one-half or three-quarter inch marine plywood and avoid using nails or screws that will rust. Whenever possible, glue and dowel. Make sure the construction is **strong**—water is heavy and will shift a lot inside, putting a lot of pressure on the sides of the box. Insulation isn't necessary, but you may line the inside with sheets of cork if you desire. Otherwise, just line the seams

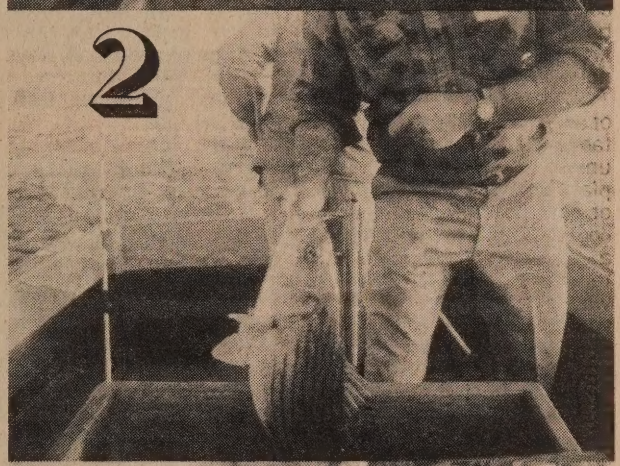
with a silicone putty and coat the box inside and out with a plastic-based paint. Attach small runners to the bottom so that the box doesn't rest flat on the deck and you can clean under it. In the bottom, cut a hole as large as possible for drainage. Have a cork or plug for opening and closing the hole so you may wash down and drain the box without having the burden of lifting and tilting it. The drainage hole must be large enough to prevent fish guts and scales from clogging it up.

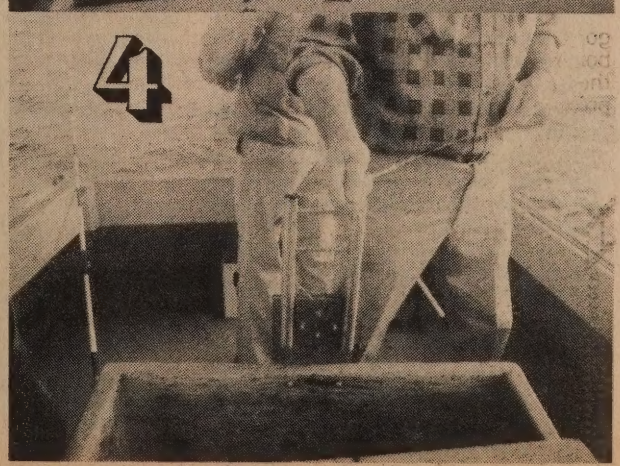
And now the subject of ice, which has an annoying habit of turning into water. If you have cleaned a fish in any way, never allow it to lie in fresh water or the flesh will quickly become mushy, soggy and tasteless. Be particularly careful when cleaning fish at home: more than a few good catches have been ruined at a kitchen sink. After rinsing fillets or steaks under cold running water for a **short** time, quickly pat them dry with paper towels. Your best bet is to make ice yourself in milk containers. The gallon size takes a good two days to freeze solid, but will keep your catch cold all day.

Cut the containers off two or three blocks of ice and place them in the bottom of the fish box. Plug-up the drainage hole and put about six inches of salt water in the box, which will quickly become an ice-cold brine. As fish are placed in the box, the water level rises, keeping them constantly immersed. Many types of fish (fluke and flounder) become stiff and are covered with slime shortly after being taken out of the water. When kept in this ice water, they don't. They will also live unbelievable lengths of time because the rocking of the boat is constantly agitating the water, aerating it. The natural buoyancy of fish in water also prevents those in the bottom of the box from being crushed by the weight of the fish on top. If you have ever filled up a garbage can with fish and later saw the condition of the fish at the bottom, you know what kind of damage this can do. Catching fish and allowing them to spoil from neglect is just as much a crime as keeping more fish than you need and throwing them away. Don't be an offender, and your fish dinners will taste much better to boot.

There's one feature that can be added to a fish box which can actually increase your catch—particularly if you do a lot of fishing for striped bass, bluefish or weakfish. Schooling predators such as these often provide blitz-type fishing, where you can bail fish for a short time after going fishless for many hours. Let's say that you hit a short blitz of striped bass that lasts all of ten minutes, and that this is the only time you are into fish in the trip. Obviously, every minute you waste will affect your overall score. Most of this wasted time comes while you are hurriedly trying to unhook a bass so that you can get your line back into the water. You're all thumbs, and they're numb; the hook is embedded in an awkward position; the fish won't lie still and cooperate, etc. Sound familiar? So you end up wasting two minutes unhooking a fish...two minutes of unproductive fishing time...two minutes during which you should have had your line back in the water to hook up again...two minutes out of a ten-minute blitz means that you have reduced the productive fishing for the day by twenty percent, so your catch will be twenty or more percent less as a result.

The answer to this problem is a little gimmick on the fish box that I saw on John DeMaio's boat, the **Vivienne**, out of Montauk. All it is is a small metal ladder with rungs that is attached to the side of the fish box, as shown in the photos. The unhooking process is unbelievably simple, fast, and you don't even touch the fish during the operation! As shown in photo one, the bass is lifted by the jig or lure and swung into the box in the foreground. The jig is then placed over the top rung of the ladder while the fish is dangling in the box, as shown in photo two. Then the jig or lure is pulled downwards so that the hook drapes vertically over the rung. The thrashing and wiggling of the heavy fish will make the fish unhook **himself** because of the position of the hook, and the striped bass falls into the box without your ever having touched it! All in the short span of five or ten seconds from the moment the fish was gaffed to the time the jig or lure is back in the water. Instead of wasting two minutes, you'll have a chance at hooking up again before the blitz ends.





Marine Electronics— 1978 UPDATE

by Gerald A Gut-Man, Nav-Com Inc.

A lot of things are happening in the marine electronics field at a rate that is difficult for many people to keep up with.

In 1978, the Coast Guard will be making changes to the Loran-C system and considering monitoring CB for distress calls. The FCC is changing certain marine single side-band frequencies and permitting the use of single side-band on 2182 KHz under certain conditions. Many of the electronic manufacturers are bringing out new generations of marine electronic products that do a lot more, do it better, and cost less. All in all, 1978 will see a lot of changes in marine electronics.

A major area of interest to sport fishermen is Loran-C. As most sport fishermen know, Loran-C is a radio navigation system, similar in general concept to Loran-A, but offering greater accuracy, more easily used at night, and usable on inland waterways and in Long Island Sound.

The Coast Guard has scheduled the entire East Coast chain of transmitters for re-configuration by July, 1978. The new designation of the chain will be 9960 (SS-4) instead of the former 9930 (SS-7). The new master station will be located at Seneca, New York (near Elmira) and will have an output power of one million watts. The secondary stations will be located as follows:

W—Caribou, Maine (new station)

X—Nantucket, Mass. (new designation)

Y—Carolina Beach, North Carolina (new designation)

Z—Dana, Indiana

While the new transmitter configuration will require new Loran-C charts, it should give much stronger signals throughout the entire East Coast. New charts for the Long Island area (#13205, 12354, 12363, 12353) are scheduled for availability beginning in March, 1978.

The Coast Guard has published schedules indicating that Loran-A will be shut down around July, 1980. The main reason is the fact that the Coast Guard has not been given enough money to operate both Loran-A and Loran-C and the Federal Government has selected Loran-C as the national navigation system.

A word of caution! Beware of certain manufacturers that advertise Loran-A receivers convertible to Loran-C. In most cases, these units do not meet the U. S. Coast Guard recommendations for Loran-C receivers capable of providing satisfactory accuracy from the system. In fact, one well-known manufacturer has publicly withdrawn its claim of convertibility!

Many new Loran-C receivers have appeared in recent months and several more should be appearing shortly. Units like the Simrad LC-123, Decca 701 and 708 (see Fig. 1) and the

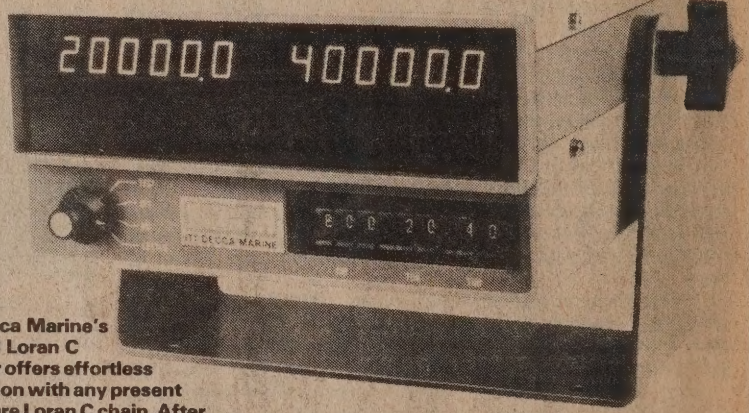


Fig. 1

ITT Decca Marine's new 708 Loran C receiver offers effortless navigation with any present and future Loran C chain. After selecting the desired stations, two LOP's are simultaneously displayed and automatically updated.

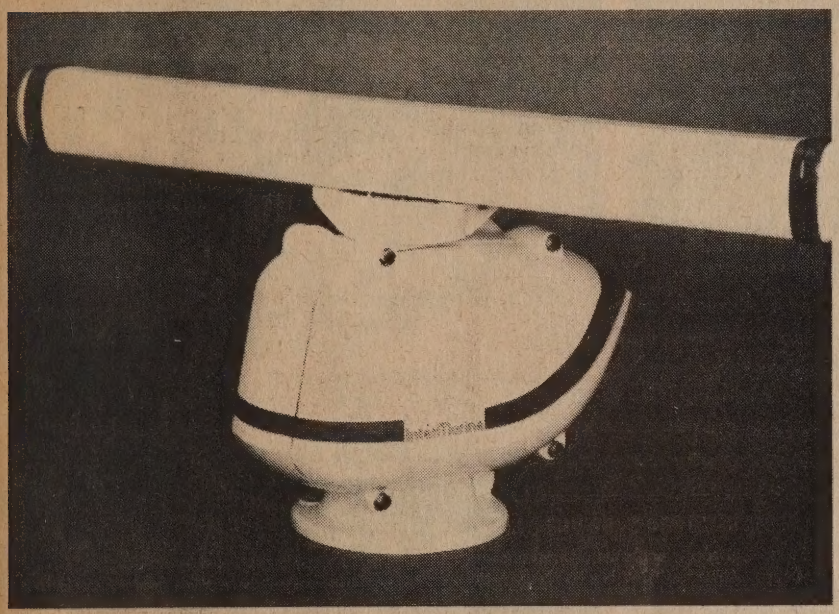
Fig. 2

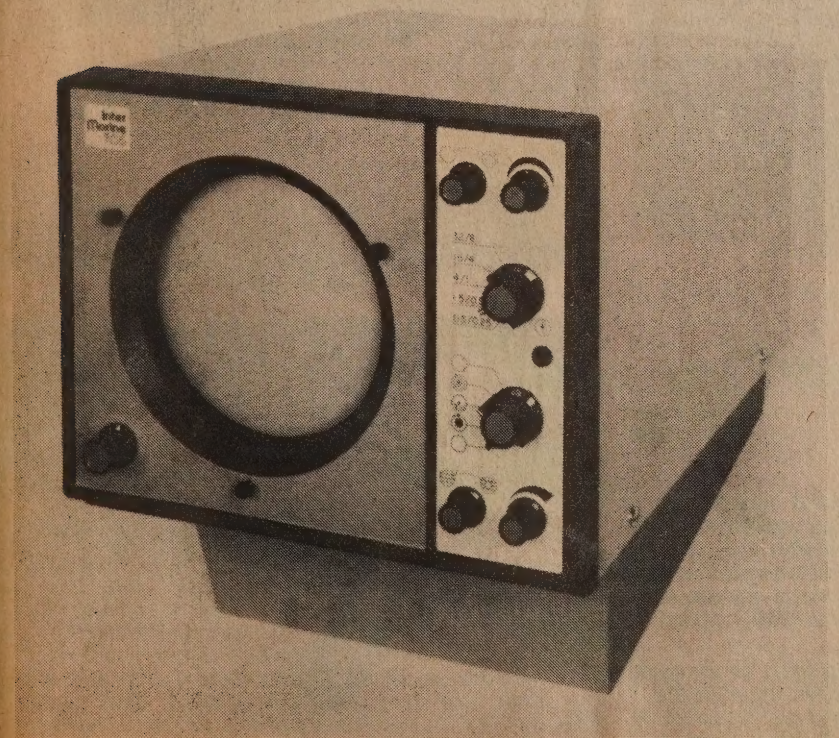
CAI's SSB-125 Solid State Radiotelephone provides long range marine communications and accomodates channel changes easily without major modifications.

Texas Instruments TI-9000 all use micro computers and offer features that were not found in Loran-C receivers costing $5,000 just a year ago! These units are in the $2,000/$3,000 price range.

A word about installations! A good installation is very critical to the proper operation of a Loran-C receiver and its ability to provide accurate navigation. Since Loran-C signals are very low frequency (100 KHz) and generally weaker than Loran-A signals, it is very important to have a good ground on the antenna coupler and the receiver and to take suitable steps to minimize ignition noise, engine noise, etc.

In marine communications, a lot of changes are also taking place. The Coast Guard (under public pressure) is considering monitoring CB for distress calls. While true that a CB radio aboard a boat is better than no radio at all, this program—if put into effect—could do a serious disservice to the public by promoting a false sense of security for the boater!





Intermarine 705 32-mile radar offers 7" display and 5 Kw transmitter for professional grade service.

Let's compare CB and VHF/FM marine radio.

1. CB is a totally undisciplined radio service, while VHF channel 16 offers a highly disciplined Safety and Calling channel monitored extensively throughout the country.

2. A CB radio cannot put out more than four watts of power (by law), while a 25 watt VHF radio with a 6 db gain antenna has an effective radiated power of 50 watts, resulting in a much greater range and more reliable communications.

As stated above, a CB radio is better than no radio, but only if you recognize its limitations.

A lot of new products are also appearing on the VHF scene. Where only a few years ago a synthesized "all channel" VHF would have cost $3,500, there are now several good units in the $500 to $750 range and more on the way. Some offer channel changing remote units, digital ringers, extra monitor receivers, etc.

The FCC has recently announced some marine Single Side-band frequency changes. On January 1, 1978, on "High Seas" radio-telephone frequencies change at stations WOO, WOM and all other similar stations throughout the world. At that time, these stations will stop monitoring the old frequencies and only monitor the new ones. A complete list of the new frequencies is available free of charge by contacting the author.

While at the time of this writing the FCC has not released specific details, frequency changes are also anticipated on the ship-to-ship frequencies above 4 MHz and the limited coast station frequencies. Effective December 12, 1977, the FCC has also amended the regulations to permit the use of single side-band on 2182 KHz, but only after communication attempts prove unsuccessful on A3 or A3H. For further information, the RTCM in Washington publishes a booklet entitled, "How to Use Your Marine Radiotelephone" which provides a concise, easy to understand, summary of the marine radio regulations. It also provides information on how to obtain licenses, selecting equipment, operating procedures and a list of all the public coast stations around the country. This booklet may be obtained at a cost of $2.50 from:

Radio Technical Commission
for Marine Services
P.O. Box 19087
Washington, D.C. 20036

With the large number of frequency changes taking place on single side-band this year, it is very important to consider equipment that makes it easier (and therefore more economical) to change channels. Certain of the more recent SSB radiotelephones are designed to permit channel changes without modifications, coil changes, etc. An example of one such unit is CAI's SSB-125 (see Fig. 2).

Readers with technical questions are invited to contact the author for more information.

Build a Rod Lathe

by Joe La Cava

Winter—cold, miserable, boring, long winter; at least that's what northeastern fishermen and boaters feel about this most dreadful of seasons. It's a time to catch up on all indoor projects, read and watch a lot of TV; a time when you can clean and repair your fishing gear and take care of all the things you had no time for during the more active months of spring, summer and fall.

I usually pack my boat away in November and clean and service my fishing gear sometime in December. Sometimes I make lures or tinker with new ideas in the workshop, but there still seems to be a long, long time before spring.

This year, I decided more projects were needed to keep my mind out of the "Bionic Man" and "Flintstones" syndrome. Rod building, I thought, would be a new experience to me and something which would take up considerable time and produce worthwhile results. Besides, I had a few spinning rods that needed new guides and I desperately needed a fifty pound class outfit.

To build a rod, one first needs a device to turn it. This can vary from the always available finger-and-book method to elaborate professional lathes. Actually, I chose something in-between which can produce beautiful results and avoids "lockjaw" of the wrists. The cost of your lathe, if you use this plan, can vary from $10 to $40 depending on how much junk you have available at home, and whether or not you can cannibalize some of your wife's appliances.

The basic components and their approximate prices are: (See photos)

a. Sewing machine motor, pulley and foot speed control—$10/$20.
b. 1/2" straight steel shaft—threaded on one end for drill chuck—$2.
c. Drill chuck and key—$3.
d. 5" or 6" pulley for 1/2" shaft—$3.
e. 2 pillow blocks for 1/2" shaft—$5.
f. assorted diameter rubber chair leg cups—$2.
g. Plastic casters—$3.
h. Neoprene "O" ring and magic glue—$2.
i. Grinding wheel—$1.
j. assorted hardware and lumber—$3.

TOOLS REQUIRED

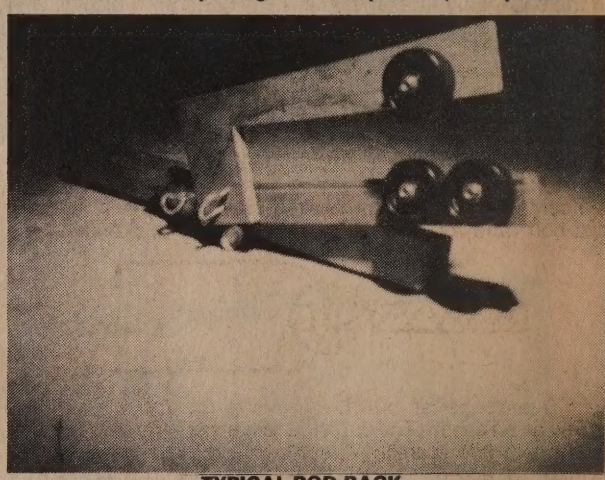
a. 1/4" drill motor and drill bits.
b. wood saw.
c. screwdriver.
d. Allen wrench.
e. file.

Now, taking each component from the list individually:

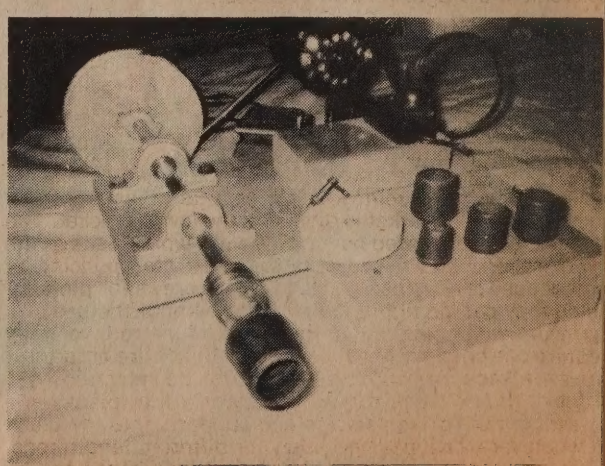
a. Here is where the cannibal is necessary and where the most money can be saved. If you have an old, unused sewing machine in the house, it has all the goodies you may need for the drive; otherwise a motor kit can vary from $10 to $20, and is available in any appliance repair shop.

b. The 1/2" steel shaft about 14" long must be straight, otherwise the rod will jump and bounce in the machine. I was fortunate to get one end turned down and threaded by a friend, so it can accept a drill chuck. If this is a problem for you, find a new friend or bring it to a machine shop. The cost will be nominal. Just machine 1/2" of material

Assembled drive package and components, foot peddle.



TYPICAL ROD RACK



ADAPTER CUP IN CHUCK

off the shaft to the size of the chuck threads.

c. This will mount on the machined end of the shaft.

d. The motor has a tremendous speed and a very small pulley. In order to reduce this speed to a workable range, a 5'' or 6'' pulley is necessary. A smaller size would give you speeds that are too fast and unnecessary, and a larger pulley would present difficult starting.

e. The pillow blocks must match the shaft size as indicated.

f. In your favorite hardware store, you will find a large assortment of rubber chair leg cups. Buy one of each of the following sizes—5/8'', 3/4'', 7/8'', 1'', 1¼'', 1½'', and one 3/16''x2'' bolt and nut for each. These will ultimately be inserted in the drill chuck to hold your rod (see photos), if you follow the procedure mentioned later.

g. Plastic casters will be needed for midspan and end roller racks.

h. You'll find that the size of the belt needed for the motor pulley, in the length that you require, is almost impossible to find. A good hardware store will have neoprene ''O'' rings of various diameters. If you find one in the proper length—great; otherwise cut a larger one on a bias to the size needed and fasten with magic glue. It works great.

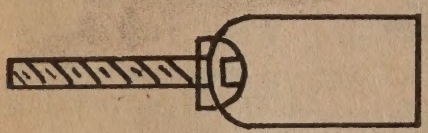
i. A small grinding wheel with arbor is sometimes needed to grind down guide feet that are too heavy, or to smooth out the feet so thread wrappings won't be frayed.

j. Assorted hardware and lumber to make the mounting platform, midspan and end roller racks.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSEMBLY:

The mounting base can be assembled as shown, with 12'' shelving and a few pieces of 2''x4'' lumber. The photo is self-explanatory. Install the motor in a position where the belt tension can be adjusted. Fasten the pillow blocks to the base, only after the shaft is through both blocks, and pulley and belt are in position. Connect your foot speed control and test run drive package.

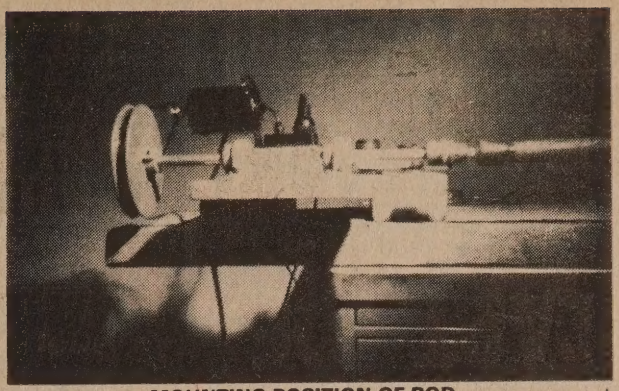
Now we must make the rubber chair cup adapters to hold the rods. The bottom of each cup will have a small circular molded recess. Measure the diameter of this recess and draw a circle of this diameter with a compass, on a piece of cardboard. Cut out the circle, trim, and glue it into the rubber recess. Then drill a 3/16'' hole through the center mark left by the compass. Then insert the nut and bolt, and form the adapter as shown in sketch.



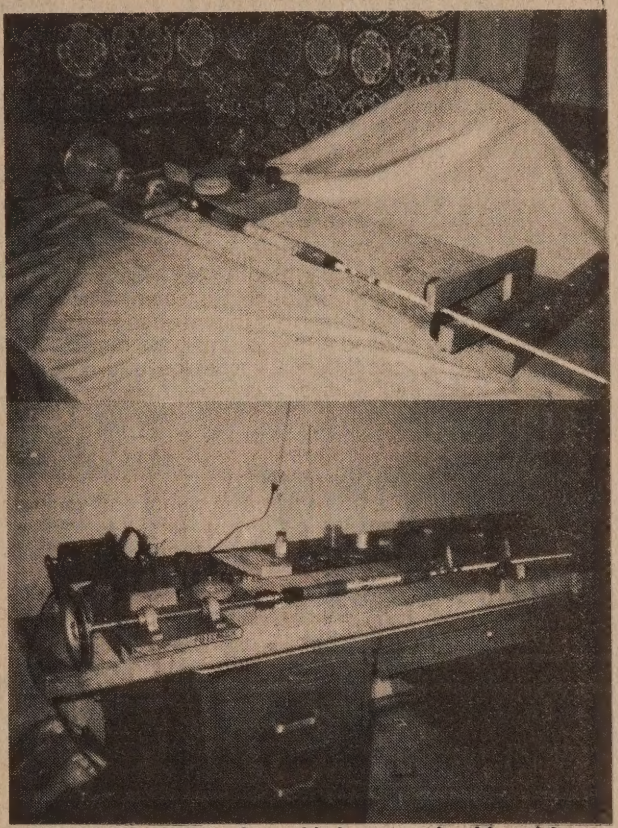
These cups can now be placed in the chuck, using the screw as an arbor. The cup side will accept various size rod butts or shaft blanks. The mounting base can now be drilled to accept the cups and a grinding wheel, for convenient storage. (Shown in photo.)

MIDSPAN AND END ROLLER RACKS:

These are made of 1''x2'' strips and pieces of plywood, made completely adjustable in all directions by drilling slotted holes at various positions. The mounting support for this section must have two vertical slotted holes to allow adjustment toward and away from the lathe center-line axis. The lower roller bracket (two casters) is pinned at its pivot point to allow vertical adjustment and the upper roller bracket is pinned to the lower bracket. The upper bracket is placed on top of the rod while it sits in the lower rollers, and it prevents the rod from bouncing at higher speeds. I've used hooked wood screws for pinning, since they can be tightened by hand without the use of a screwdriver. Depending on the length of the rod, you may require one or two of these brackets. The entire assembly, drive package and supports must now be mounted on a common base. I use a nine inch by six foot plank, and screw both the drive package and supports into the plank at whatever location is necessary for different length rods. However, a piece of plywood or two 2''x4'' studs can be used.



MOUNTING POSITION OF ROD



COMPLETE LATHE—Assembled, mounted, with rod installed, ready for operation.

ALIGNMENT AND OPERATION OF THE LATHE:

After both the drive package and roller assemblies have been mounted on a common base, alignment will be necessary both in the horizontal and vertical planes. The easiest way to accomplish this is to mount a rod in the lathe and at very slow speeds adjust the roller racks base and lower roller arm to obtain the least amount of wobble in the rod. Then tighten everything down, and you are ready to run.

You will undoubtedly find many uses for your lathe—both for fishing and boating needs and other home type projects. I have listed below some uses I have put my lathe to. The possibilities are endless.

1. Replacing guides.
2. Building new rods.
3. Re-varnishing rods (just hold the brush and spin the lathe).
4. Cleaning or making cork grips.
5. Polishing (with proper arbor).
6. Grinding.
7. Removing peeling varnish (wire wheel).
8. Forming round stock for various projects.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the codfishing for fish up to 25 lbs. was pretty good on Saturday at Coxes Ledge, so he returned there on Sunday. But finding the fishing slow, the **Viking Starship** doubled back to the Sharks Ledge area off Block Island and did a real number on the fish. Cod ranging from 6 to 12 lbs. were all over the area feeding on sand eels and the anglers aboard took them on Diamond jig and tube rigs, as well as bait. The high hook was more than a dozen nice cod, but there were no pollock mixed in the catch. Paul said that all the fishermen aboard have fallen in love with the fully heated rail and the new heated deck that is now operational. No more icy decks, cold hands or cold feet—just fishing for cod in comfort. The Captain said that whenever weather permits the Viking Star has been sailing to offshore grounds to setline for tilefish. The Star returned on Sunday after a three-day trip and unloaded over 20,000 lbs. of the tasty tiles that were shipped to market.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

We regret to inform our readers of the death of Capt. John Johnsen of the **Bobbi**, well remembered out of Sheepshead Bay. Captain Johnsen was in his Eighties and passed away just one week after the death of his wife, Hanna. The staff here at LIF join with our readers in sympathy to his family and relatives.

The **New Eagle** reports good whiting and ling fishing at the BA buoy over the weekend. On Sunday, whiting and ling averaging 2 lbs. were taken and catches averaged a five-gallon pail per person.

The **Atomic II** reports that whiting and ling are being taken in good quantity from the BA buoy. On Saturday, Robert from Co-Op City took a nice whiting of 4¼ lbs. Catches averaged from 20 to 50 fish per person.

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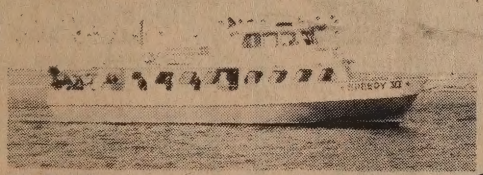

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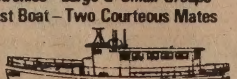

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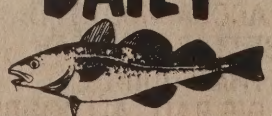

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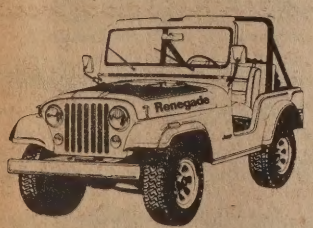

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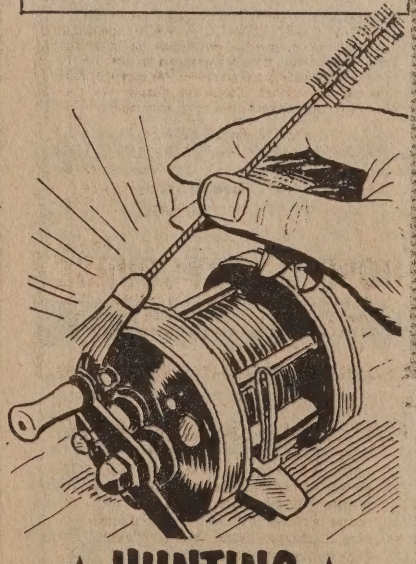

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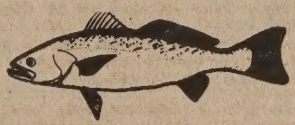

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